

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

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DRAFTED BY USDA:FAS:ITP:JMBENSON:JVM

APPROVED BY EB/ITP/OT/TA:DJDUNFORD

USDA:FAS:TOD:JMBESHOAR

USDA:FAS:ITP:GOFRASER

USDA:FAS:FCA:KMURRAY (DRAFT)

USDA:AO:RANSOM

STR:JSTARKEY (DRAFT)

TREASURY:BBARREDA (SUBS.)

EA/TB:JKLEMSTINE (SUBS.)

AGRIC:ERBEVIS

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R 202050Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS STATE 179155

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TH

SUBJECT: THAI DUTY ON WHEAT FLOUR

REF: AGRIC ATTACHE REPORT TH 5019, MARCH 26, 1975

1. U.S. FLOUR MILLERS ASSN. HAS ASKED USG ASSISTANCE

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IN OBTAINING REMOVAL OF RTG DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT

OF IMPORTS U.S. WHEAT FLOUR. RTG ASSESSES DUTY OF 30 PERCENT ON CONSTRUCTED PRICE OF 7.80 BAHT/KG SET FOR U.S. AND CANADIAN WHEAT FLOUR, AND VALUE OF 5.60 BAHT/KG FOR FLOUR OF OTHER ORIGIN. THIS PLACES QUALITY U.S. FLOUR AT SEVERE COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE WITH RESPECT TO SIMILAR QUALITY FLOUR FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

2. THAI WHEAT FLOUR IMPORTS FROM U.S. HAVE DECLINED FROM 1970 LEVEL OF 1,000 METRIC TONS (MT) TO 1975 LEVEL OF 391 MT.

3. EMBASSY BANGKOK INSTRUCTED TO RAISE TOPIC WITH RTG AND REQUEST ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT. POINTS THAT MAY BE USED IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST INCLUDE:

A. IF, AS REFTEL REPORTS, RTG BASES DISCRIMINATION ON CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FLOURS, RTG FOREIGN EXCHANGE IS NOT BEING ECONOMIZED IN THE SENSE OF OBTAINING THE MOST QUALITY FOR THE LEAST FOREIGN EXCHANGE;

B. DUTY SYSTEM PENALIZES PRODUCERS OF HIGH QUALITY FLOUR;

C. DUTY SYSTEM INCREASES COSTS TO CONSUMERS; AND

D. U.S. ALREADY DISADVANTAGED DUE TO TRANSPORTATION DISTANCE.

4. FOR OTTAWA. U.S. MILLERS SAY THEIR CANADIAN COUNTERPARTS ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT. THUS EMBASSY SHOULD SUGGEST TO GOC THAT IT ALSO RAISE MATTER WITH RTG. KISSINGER

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Draft Date: 20 JUL 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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